

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Latvia)  
SUBJECT Medical Laboratory Facilities/Water Pollution/  
Resident Medical Faculty Members at University  
of Riga

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1.

Very little pure bacteriological research  
was conducted in Latvia up to 1944 and in general, research was all applied50X1

2.

The Latvian State Bacteriological Laboratory was located either on Church  
Street or School Street, Riga, in vicinity of St Gertrude's Church. It was  
a division of the Department of Health and was established about 30 years ago.  
The building was a former two story private residence. All of the work con-  
ducted by the laboratory was the identification of diphtheria and typhoid  
cases and the testing of water supplies. The professional staff consisted of  
about 10 people, all of whom were medical doctors. No unusual equipment was  
installed.

3.

The State Serum Station was located on the bank of Daugava River just north-  
west of Riga at Bolderaja. Tetanus serum was manufactured as well as veterinary  
medicaments. About 80 horses were kept at the station for serum purposes. Key  
personnel were shared with the state bacteriological laboratory, but about 20  
permanent staff members were employed. Production of serum and veterinary  
supplies was adequate for Latvian requirements.

4.

The two municipal hospitals in Riga each had a clinical laboratory for general  
hospital needs. No advanced research was conducted. The University of Riga  
Medical Faculty utilized these laboratories. Riga Red Cross Hospital also had50X1  
a clinical laboratory. The Army Hospital had a laboratory for clinical use.  
not believe that BW research was conducted there due to lack of sufficient-  
ly trained military personnel. No civilians, were engaged in  
such activity in Latvia as of 1944.50X1

5.

The municipal hospital and Red Cross hospital at Liepaja, each had a clinical  
laboratory. there were no separate laboratories located in the city. The  
municipal hospital at Daugavpils had no laboratory.

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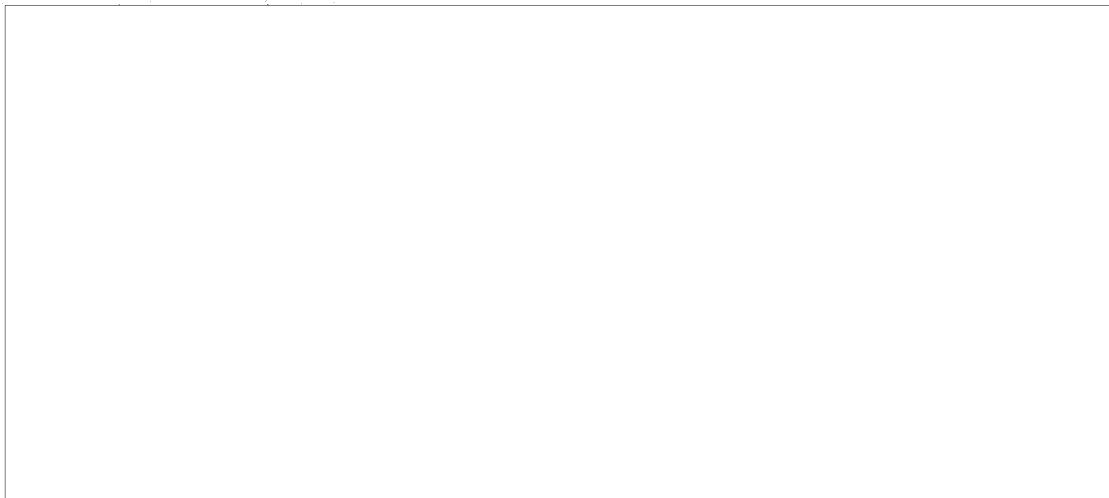
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6. The purity of drinking water in Latvia is poor, both in urban and suburban areas due to shallow water table. Water supply for Riga is, however, relatively pure and is ground water pumped from an area near Lielais Baltezers, a lake just north of the city. No purification is necessary. Water supply of Daugavpils is taken from Daugava River and must be chlorinated. It is a poor source and typhoid outbreaks reoccur. At Jelgava ground water is mixed with river water to soften it. It is chlorinated. In suburban areas well water is utilized. Wells are usually shallow and uncovered resulting in easy contamination. During Latvian Republic there was no systematic government inspection of wells.



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